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JULIE NAUMAN Executive Officer

## California Victim Compensation Program Initiates Online Access System

Federal Grant Allows Program to Initiate Planning, Development

**Sacramento, CA** – The California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded the Office for Victims of Crime Vision 21: Building State Technology Capacity federal grant to initiate planning for the development of a comprehensive Online Access (OLA) system. The online access system would increase access for victims to state resources, improve application processing and reporting timeliness, and increase the accessibility and responsiveness to crime victims.

"This grant will kick start the process to providing better, faster service to over 50,000 victims each year," said CalVCP Executive Officer Julie Nauman. "I am thrilled to begin this project and create a comprehensive and systemic approach that other states can replicate to ensure every victim of crime receives the highest level of service."

The proposed OLA portal would enable victims and advocates to file applications on the Internet and provide victims, advocates, and service providers direct access to information about the status of applications and bills. This improved central access will greatly reduce processing time and increase victim and stakeholder satisfaction. The system will increase efficiencies by reducing the cost of document handling and effective data reporting.

The two year grant provides \$250,000 of funding and concludes on September 30, 2016. The first year of funding will allow CalVCP to conduct strategic planning with stakeholders, prepare and submit a Feasibility Study Report, and prepare a Budget Change Proposal. The second year of funding will be used to develop detailed business requirements for the OLA system, develop and issue a Request for Proposal, and prepare the final report describing and evaluating the planning process. The final report will provide replicable strategies for compensation programs across the nation to embark on similar projects.

For more information regarding victim compensation, please visit <u>calvcp.ca.gov</u>.

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The California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP) provides compensation for victims of violent crime who are injured or threatened with injury. Among the crimes covered are domestic violence, child abuse, sexual and physical assault, homicide, robbery, and vehicular manslaughter. Last fiscal year, the program assisted nearly 600 individuals each week, and provided over \$61 million in compensation to crime victims.

If a person meets eligibility criteria, CalVCP will compensate many types of services when the costs are not covered by other sources. Eligible services include medical and dental care, mental health services, income loss, funeral expenses, rehabilitation and relocation. Funding for CalVCP comes from restitution fines and orders, penalty assessments levied on persons convicted of crimes and traffic offenses, and matching federal funds.